

SENATE—Monday, June 11, 2001

The Senate met at 1:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BILL NELSON, a Senator from the State of Florida.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Lord of all life, who has made work in Government one of the highest callings and the formation of public policy a crucial ministry, we ask You to help us to bless the weekday and keep it holy. Give us a renewed sense of mission today as we go about the tasks of this week. You are present in this Chamber. May we keep our attention on You as the only one we must please. With that ever before us, we will work with excellence because we are accountable to You. So may every word we speak, every relationship we enjoy, and every task we tackle be done with a sense of Your presence. May we never forget why we are here: to serve You by being servant leaders to the people in our land. Living and working is a privilege. Thank You for another day to do both with enthusiasm. In the name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BILL NELSON led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 11, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BILL NELSON, a Senator from the State of Florida, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. NELSON of Florida thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are going to be in a period of morning business until 2:30 today. At 2:30 we are going to resume consideration of the education reform bill. We are going to spend 30 minutes on the Bond amendment regarding parental involvement and then 2 hours on the Landrieu amendment dealing with title I. We will have two rollcall votes at 5:30 p.m. in relation to the Landrieu and Bond amendments. We are going to complete consideration of this education bill by the end of this week.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now be in a period of morning business until the hour of 2:30 with Senators permitted to speak therein for not to exceed 10 minutes with the following exceptions: Mr. THOMAS or his designee, 1:30 to 2; Mr. DURBIN or his designee, 2 to 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. REID). The Senator from Florida.

GLOBAL WARMING

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I am grateful for the opportunity to address a couple of topics that have been in my heart.

I had the privilege of being here Friday afternoon to hear Senator BYRD explain the legislation he was offering to try to get our arms around the problem of global warming. It was in Senator BYRD's presentation to the Senate that he shared with us that a vast majority of the scientific community in fact has recognized that the Earth's temperature is warming and that, indeed, man is contributing to that warming through the emission of CO₂ into the atmosphere, thus causing a greenhouse effect.

I was so moved by Senator BYRD's presentation, after which he then introduced the legislation, in light of the fact that this present administration had set aside the Kyoto accords and is going about in its own way to try to address the problem.

Senator BYRD offered this legislation, sponsored by himself and cosponsored by Senator STEVENS, as a means to try to accelerate and focus world attention on this phenomenon; to use Senator BYRD's words, that something out there in fact is happening.

I was moved to speak after Senator BYRD's presentation. What I shared was an experience of looking at global warming from the perspective of my past life as the elected insurance commissioner of Florida, recognizing that it would have devastating effects upon a State such as Florida with such an extensive coastline. The rise of the seas would have an immediate effect upon most of our population which is along the coast. The warming of the atmosphere would cause increased frequency and ferociousness of storms, particularly the storms that are a part of our life style in Florida known as hurricanes, and the rising temperature for the tropical and subtropical climes would likewise have the result of increasing pestilence and disease.

I was then moved to remember in my mind's eye the view I had out the window of the spacecraft *Columbia* on the 24th flight of the space shuttle, looking back at planet Earth, how beautiful it is and yet how fragile it looks. It is gorgeous. It is a blue and white ball suspended in the middle of nothing. Space is nothing. It is an airless vacuum that goes on and on for billions and billions of light years. In the midst of that void is this wonderful creation we call home, planet Earth.

I described to Senator BYRD Friday that on the first day, you are looking at nation states. On the second day, you are looking at continents. On the third day, you are looking at the whole planet. That is the perspective you have. The first time you look out, you are looking for home. You are looking for Florida, and then you are looking for America. Then in a few days you are looking for home, and there it is, planet Earth, blue because of the oceans, white because of the clouds.

If you look at the land mass, it is usually a dull brown except in parts where there are the contrasts of colors, such as the Horn of Africa, the bright, almost orange-reddish sands of eastern Africa set off against the bright blue waters of the Indian Ocean.

I am saying all of this because I wanted to add to the comments I made